

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

September 21 – 24, 2026
This Is an A Week

There are three links (given in red below) for all classes for the semester: Auditorium, Classroom 15-17, and Classroom 27. Click on the appropriate link below to join a class no earlier than 15 minutes before its start.

AUDITORIUM

Meeting ID: 831 2470 2819
Passcode: 252525

ROOM 15-17

Meeting ID: 859 5495 1087
Passcode: 252525

ROOM 27

Meeting ID: 874 2995 4279
Passcode: 252525

Meeting IDs and passcodes for the three meeting rooms are also listed above in case such information is needed. If you don't have Zoom installed, you can still enter a class using your browser by clicking on <https://zoom.us/join> and typing in the Meeting ID for the room of your class along with the passcode.

When joining Quest classes on Zoom, please make sure that your full name is displayed for security purposes. If you need help displaying your name, please contact a Technology Committee Member.

In addition, you can attend classes on your phone by dialing 1-929-205-6099. You will be asked for the Meeting ID and possibly the passcode.

NOTE: All classes are conducted at 25 Broadway and are listed as either Hybrid or In-person only. Hybrid classes are available to members attending at 25 Broadway and to members attending from home via Zoom. In-person only classes are presented solely at 25 Broadway with no Zoom option.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Yom Kippur – Quest is closed

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE**
Subject: How to Tame a Fox (and Build a Dog)
Facilitator: Steve Allen
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Steve Allen**, Jim Brook, Gil Santiago, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Joan Lambe

We'll discuss the book *How to Tame a Fox (and Build a Dog)* by Lee Alan Dugatki and Lyudmila Trut. This is a vivid account of an ongoing experiment in Siberia, started in 1952, to use human-directed selection to create a breed of domesticated foxes. The aims of the experiment are to try to better understand the genetic process by which wolves gave rise to domesticated dogs and to help build a general theory of domestication. Part of the story is the extreme danger the scientists who carried out the experiment faced and the machinations they used to disguise what they were doing – in the Soviet Union at the time they started the experiment, belief in genetics was a serious criminal offense.

We'll also leave time for discussion of current science news.

Optional readings will be distributed in advance of the class via QuestBusiness.

Course: **SUPREME COURT**
Subject: Buckley, Citizens United and Beyond: How the Supreme Court Hollowed Out Campaign Finance Reform.
Presenter: Robert Belfort
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Sandra Abramson, Babette Ceccotti
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Felix Pina

In the wake of Watergate and the escalation of large contributions to political campaigns, Congress enacted comprehensive campaign finance reforms in the early 1970's to minimize the influence of big money on elections. Over the past 50 years, though, the

Supreme Court has struck down many of these reforms on First Amendment grounds. Did these decisions appropriately protect Americans' free-speech rights or unleash forces that threaten our democracy?

Course: THEATERWORKS WORKSHOP
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Art Spar, Mary Ann Donnelly, Donna Ramer, Ruth Ward
Tech Support: Tamara Weinberg, Wayne Cotter

TheaterWorks will continue rehearsals and presentations by the five troupes:

- Yona Rogosin is producing a scene from "The Odd Couple," the female version.
- Mary Beth Yakoubian is producing a scene from "Doubt."
- Donna Ramer is producing & directing an original play by Nancy Dobi, "A Guilty Pleasure."
- Ruth Ward is producing an original play "The Reluctant Presenter."
- Art Spar is producing an original play "Ain't Dead Yet."

Come one, come all. We need actors, directors, playwrights, and stage crafters. In particular, we need an audience for those who like to watch. Active discussions will follow each presentation.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: DÉJEUNER ET PARTAGER
Presenter: Ruth Ward
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

En vers et contre tous

Avez-vous déjà connu quelqu'un qui s'est mis soudainement à parler en vers rimés ? Comment réagiriez-vous ? Nous allons lire un dialogue où cela se produit. Rejoignez-nous pour découvrir le résultat.

In Verse and Against All Odds

Have you ever known anyone who suddenly started to speak in rhymed verses? How would you react? We're going to read a dialog where that happens. Come and join us to see the result.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **OPERA UNCORKED!**
Subject: Happy? Operas
Presenter: Peter Dichter
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Mary Beth Yakoubian, Peter Dichter, Frieda Lipp**
Tech Support: **Victor Brener, Joan Lambe**

So a friend tells you he has just seen an opera that made him laugh out loud. You question his sanity. A short time later, your sister tells you about a feel-good opera that she is still humming arias from. Then you read about an opera that the critics called joyous with dazzling music. What's wrong with this picture? Happy opera? No one dies? Great music? No one dies? Yes. And this presentation will cover a few of these fabulous operas that are written by great composers. We will view selective scenes from wonderful operas and hear phenomenal arias and leave in a wonderful mood with a different perspective on opera. And yes. No one dies.

Course: **TWO NOVELS BY VIRGINIA WOOLF**
Subject: To The Lighthouse
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler**
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

We will begin class by briefly discussing Virginia Woolf's essay "How Should One Read a Book?" Do you have new perspectives about reading? What is Woolf's advice? Did you find some parts of the essay amusing? We will continue to discuss the first six chapters of *The Window* and may have time to go on to the seventh chapter. The author's goal was to imagine what the ongoing interior thoughts, feelings, and memories of characters might be as they proceed through a space of time. What do we learn about the various characters, especially Mrs. Ramsay? What does Mrs. Ramsay think are the important differences between people?

Course: **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**
Subject: The First Line
Presenter: Judy Hampson
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only (**Note: This class ends at 3:00 p.m.**)
Coordinators: **Helen Saffran**, Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer

When sitting down to write, in whatever genre we're planning to create, the hardest part can be that first line. What am I trying to say? Where should I begin? We are going to look at some well-known first lines and use them as an inspiration for our own writing.

As always, the class begins with a 10-minute writing response to a prompt, which you can choose to share with the group or not. You may bring in writing you have done at home in any genre, in poetry or prose, and the group will offer constructive responses to it. Writing that is read in class should be under 750 words, but longer pieces can be read over consecutive classes. Please bring in 14 copies of at-home writing to share with the class. At a loss for a topic? Try: *I love coming to Quest because...*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **DISCOVERY**
Subject: A Ugandan Experience
Presenter: Laraine Mancuso
Room: Room 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine**, David Bartash, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**, Sylvia Schaindlin

Come and take a short journey through the East African country of Uganda. Learn about its history, modern day Uganda, and visit a school. Meet their Chimps, Elephants' who stop traffic to help the herd cross the road to get to water, Lions who sleep in trees, and of course the Silver Backed Gorillas.

Course: **SHAKESPEARE: THE MAN AND HIS WORKS**
Subject: The Play's the Thing
Facilitator: Paul Golomb
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Jim Brook, Paul Golomb**, Peter Dichter
Tech Support: **Paul Golomb**, Felix Pina

What do countless movie musicals and Hamlet have in common? They all employ a play within a play, Shakespeare employed this device in at least four of his plays. Hamlet and A Midsummer Night's Dream are the two most prominent examples. We will compare and contrast this device in those two plays. (If you wish, check out Hamlet Act 3, Scene 2 and Dream Act 5 Scene 1.) We will also look at two other plays that utilize the device, though not as obviously. Go ahead and guess which?

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC**
Films : 1. Colours Of Time (Paul Adler)
2. Tony (Bob Reiss)
3. A River Runs Through It (Ken Sasmor)
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Howard Salik**, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Wayne Cotter**, Michael Wellner

Colours Of Time — Presented by Paul Adler (Stream: Prime, Apple) R/T:95

Four cousins inherit a rural Normandy house and uncover a mysterious 1895 diary written by their ancestor, Adèle Meunier. Guided by Adèle's story—set in Belle Époque Paris and featuring figures like Monet and Nadar—they unravel long-buried family secrets. As they retrace her journey, past and present intertwine, forcing the cousins to confront their legacy and shape their own futures.

Tony — Presented by Bob Reiss (In theaters only; Try AMC theaters on Tuesday or Wednesday for half-price tickets) R/T:94

Enter the wild world of Anthony Bourdain, the culinary legend whose book Kitchen Confidential became a bestseller and earned rave reviews from the world's greatest chefs. But before Bourdain was a household name, the film rewinds to his origin story: at 19, chasing after friends (and maybe a few girls) to Provincetown, he accidentally stumbles into the beautiful chaos of a restaurant kitchen. Little did he know that one hectic, grease-splattered summer would put him on a path toward global stardom—and

a lifetime of trying to explain what "sous chef" actually means to his relatives at Thanksgiving.

A River Runs Through It — Presented by Ken Sasmor (Stream: Prime, Apple) R/T: 89

Continuing our remembrance of Robert Redford, we'll review a Redford-directed film. The Maclean brothers live a relatively idyllic life in rural Montana, spending much of their time fishing. The sons of a minister, the boys eventually part company when Norman moves east to attend college, leaving the rebellious brother to find trouble back home. This is Brad Pitt's first film role.

Course: **TIMELESS WRITINGS: THE TALE OF GENJI**
Subject: Chapters 3 & 4
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz**, Mary Ann Donnelly, Judy Hampson, Andrea Irvine

A woman escapes Genji, leaving only her robe behind. He finds another woman in her bed. Then a mysterious woman sends him a flower — and things get considerably worse. And now we enter another part of Genji's world — the world of ghosts and spirits, where the supernatural is very close to everyday life.

Who said the world's first great novel had to be respectable?

Course: **YOU CAN DO POWERPOINT**
Room: Computer Lab
Format: In-Person only
Coordinators: **Tamara Weinberg**, Tracey Lee

Want to share your passion but don't know how to create a presentation? Drop in to our workshop and learn basic PowerPoint — all skill levels welcome! Each session will begin with a short overview of how to create a basic slideshow and add images, text, and videos. Then you can work on your presentation with individual assistance- it's a PowerPoint study hall! Bring your own laptop with PowerPoint installed or use a computer in the lab and bring a USB-A thumb drive to save your work. Experienced PowerPoint users are encouraged to join in to share their skills and learn more advanced techniques as time permits.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **CONTEMPORARY POETRY**
Subject: The Seeds of Poetry: Japan Before Haiku
Presenter: Sheryl Harawitz
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Ellen Rittberg**, Frieda Lipp, Karen Millard
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**, Ruth Ward

Long before haiku, poetry was everywhere in Japan. Lovers courted with poems, friends exchanged them, emperors collected them, and novelists wove them into their stories. In just thirty-one syllables, a waka might capture a love affair, a changing season, a separation, or a moment that could not be said directly.

Through poems preserved for more than a thousand years, we'll enter a world in which a few carefully chosen words could carry an astonishing amount of weight — and hear voices that still sound remarkably alive.

Moonlight on the pond —
light trembling,
then gone.
Some gifts ask
that we pause long enough
to see them.

Course: **HOW THINGS WORK**
Subject: Glass
Presenter: Pete Weis
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Marty Green**, Tamara Weinberg
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**, Pete Weis, Joan Lambe

Glass is a material that defies definition — sort of an amorphous super-cooled liquid. It was invented in several civilizations as early as the 4th Millenium BCE when the common use was as jewelry. Eventually, several ways to shape it into useful everyday shapes were developed. And every day we use it to hold stuff, look through, and admire ourselves. In its various forms, it is essential for astronomy, scientific labs, cars, homes, vision and helpful in recreation, cooking, and even as a musical instrument. This presentation will cover the history, production, coloring, and various qualities for the many uses of glass, and will end with glass recycling.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 @ 12:10 – 12:40

Course: Chair Yoga
Room: Auditorium
Format: In Person Only
Coordinator: Lisa Levine

There will be no Chair Yoga today. Chair Yoga will resume next Thursday and continue weekly on Thursday for the rest of the semester.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES**
Stories: 1. The Deep (Frieda Lipp)
2. Mrs. Ditta Writes a Letter (Arlynn Greenbaum)
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Susannah Falk Lewis**, Steve Allen, Frieda Lipp, Lynn Vairo

The Deep by Anthony Doerr Presented by Frieda Lipp

Anthony Doerr is a novelist, short story writer, winner of the Pulitzer and numerous other awards including the Sunday Times Short Story Award for *The Deep*. Tom is four when his very protective mother discovers her 'little Tomcat' has a hole in his heart and whose days are numbered. It's a delicate tale that follows Tom as he journeys into adventures of life and love.

Mrs. Ditta Writes a Letter by Chitra Divakaruni Presented by Arlynn Greenbaum

Chitra Divakaruni is an award-winning author of 21 books including *Mistress Of Spices*, *Palace Of Illusions*, *The Last Queen* and her most recent, *Independence*, which won a 2024 American Book Award. Her work has been published in over 100 magazines and anthologies, including *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, *The Best American Short Stories* and the *O. Henry Prize Stories*. She is the McDavid professor of Creative Writing at the University of Houston.

Links for the two stories have been sent separately to all Questers via QuestBusiness email. A few printed copies of the stories will be available in the A-week box in the Quest Office

Any questions, please email Susannah Falk Lewis at susannah49@gmail.com

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE I**
Subject: Medical Aid in Dying in New York
Presenter: Madeleine Brecher
Room: 27
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Mary Beth Yakoubian**, Karen Cullen, Anne Moses
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Ruth Ward

The New York Medical Aid in Dying Act went into effect on August 5, 2026, expanding end-of-life options for terminally ill New Yorkers and affirming their right to make informed, compassionate decisions at the end of life. It is now a medical option for qualifying adults. This landmark achievement is the result of more than a decade of advocacy.

At a Quest aging class a few years ago, I became aware of “right to die” laws in a few American states, but NOT in New York. And then finally, in July, I heard Mandi Zucker, the Executive Director of End-of-Life Choices New York, expertly explain the details of New York’s new law. I thought the inquisitive seniors at Quest would be interested in learning about this long-awaited ruling.

Please join us as Mandi discusses the basics of New York’s legislation. Come with your curiosity and we feel certain you will leave feeling more educated and empowered! Mandi will have time to respond to your questions.